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# Shriners Plan \$3 Million Child Burns Hospital Here

By HERBERT BLACK

America's Shriners have offered to build a \$3 million Institute for Children's Burns at the Massachusetts General Hospital and to provide \$1,250,000 a year to staff and operate it.

Announcement of the selection of M.G.H. for this major gift came Wednesday during a combined meeting of national officers of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine and the board of trustees of the Shriners Hospitals for Crippled Children at Jacksonville, Fla.

Boston Probate Judge Robert Gardner Wilson Jr., a member of the Shriners committee that selected M.G.H., told the Globe Wednesday night that pre-

liminary plans call for a 30-bed hospital with at least 45 nurses.

Exact site of the Institute has not yet been determined, but there has been discussion about placing it on the Blossom st. side of the hospital, facing Storow dr. and near the new apartment complex. The structure would comprise possibly 100,000 square feet of floor space.

The Institute will be one of three to be financed entirely by the 800,000 Shriners. The other two will be in the central part of the United States and in the West. More than \$10 million have been earmarked for construction costs.

Judge Wilson said that the

Shriners already operate 17 hospitals for crippled children in this country, Canada, Mexico and Hawaii. The nearest one is in Springfield.

Last year, at the annual meeting in Toronto, it was decided to do something substantial for the thousands of children badly burned every year and for whom there are not enough facilities. It is hoped, in addition, said Wilson, that the Shriners will be making an added contribution to medical science.

A committee of seven, on which Wilson serves, boiled down 100 possible locations to seven, which they visited.

The committee was looking for a combination of factors



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which included: interest of the medical school and hospital involved in burns; past productivity; opportunity for research on burns; prestige; a good Shrine atmosphere in the vicinity of the site, proximity of the site to a medical school and the availability of outstanding surgeons.

Two doctors specifically mentioned in the last respect were Dr. Oliver Cope, who played a large part in the treatment of Cocoanut Grove fire victims, and Dr. Paul S. Russell, surgeon-in-chief at M. G. H. Another requirement was that the hospital be able to set up a team of surgeons to go to work even before the institute is ready.

As soon as Wilson gets back to Boston he plans to see Dean George P. Berry of the Harvard Medical School and general director John Knowles of the M.G.H. to expedite plans.

Dr. Knowles said: "We are deeply honored that the Shriners of North America have offered the Massachusetts General Hospital a Burn Institute.

"The Shriners long have been known for their humanitarian work. On July 4, 1818, the cornerstone of the Bulfinch Building at M.G.H. was laid in Masonic form by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. Now 145 years later the possibility of joining with the Shriners in the formation of a Burn Institute is a very exciting proposition."

The surgeon-in-chief of the Institute would be paid by the Shriners. Burns cases are very expensive and most families could not bear the \$6000 to \$8000 that would be required to pay for treatment.

The Shrine takes care of cases in its Crippled Children's Hospitals and will care for those in the Burn Institute who need financial assistance.

Hospital officials in the area Wednesday night were hailing the proposed Institute as a major new contribution to the medical facilities of the city and the state.